

Awareness Weekend — April 22/23

Pulpit Announcement Bishop's Annual Appeal 2017

All registered parishioners will receive a mailing from Bishop Cary within the next few days asking for your participation in this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal and next weekend we will view and listen to a recorded message from Bishop Cary about the Appeal.

Appeal funds are used to help fund events such as diocesan-wide youth retreats, workshops for parish catechists, as well as tuition for seminarians—in short, for the many diocesan ministries that individual parishes cannot sustain on their own.

The theme of the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal is "Walking in Faith." As you consider the amount you can pledge to help these ministries, please reflect on the following:

Contributing to the Bishop's Annual Appeal is one concrete way to focus on taking the mercy of God to heart and inspire others to "find the road that leads to the Father." Take a moment to honestly examine all the God-given blessings in your life and then ask not yourself, but ask God: "What is just?" By our baptism and our confirmation in the Catholic church, each of us is called to serve as a good and merciful shepherd. We're called not only to follow Christ, but to be Christ.

Please pray for the Lord's guidance as you consider the this reflection, and please give generously according to the blessings God has given you.

Awareness Weekend Information

Awareness Weekend provides your parishioners with significant information about the use of the Bishop's Annual Appeal funds. This weekend's activities advise your parishioners that they will be asked to give the Appeal either through the Bishop's letter or during the upcoming In-Pew process.

Include the Appeal in your Bulletin, Pulpit Announcements and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Pastor's Homily Notes:

- ◆ Please prepare a brief homily for this Awareness Weekend in support of the BAA.
- ◆ Before preparing your homily, please listen to the Bishop's video message on the 2017 BAA theme "Walking in Faith" that you will play for your parishioners next weekend - Announcement Weekend, April 30th.
- ◆ It is critical to the success of the Appeal that you preach about the good works accomplished because of the Bishop's Annual Appeal and encourage your parishioners to pledge their support on Commitment Weekend (May 21st) if they have not already done so by mail.
- ◆ If you will be away from your parish on this weekend, please make sure the presider has access to the Bishop's message and prepares a similar homily in your absence.